

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 27, 2014
LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
900 SOUTH FREMONT, ALHAMBRA, CA**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Terri Grant, Los Angeles County Flood Control District – Chair
Leighanne Kirk (for Rich Nagel), West Basin MWD – Chair, South Bay Sub-Region
Rob Beste, City of Torrance – Vice Chair, South Bay Sub-Region
Randal Orton, Las Virgenes MWD – Chair, NSMB Sub-Region
Joe Bellomo (for Barbara Cameron), City of Malibu – Vice Chair, NSMB Sub-Region
Andy Niknafs (for Dave Pettijohn), Department of Water and Power – Chair, Upper Los Angeles River Sub-Region
Nancy Steele, Council for Watershed Health – Vice Chair, Upper LA River Sub-Region
Kelly Gardner, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster – Chair, Upper SG/RH Sub-Region
Randy Schoellerman, Water Quality Authority – Vice-Chair, Upper SG/RH River Sub-Region
Jason Weeks (for Robb Whitaker), WRD – Chair, Lower SG/LA Rivers Sub-Region
Mark Stanley, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy – Vice Chair, Lower SG/LA Rivers Sub-Region
Sharon Green, Sanitation Districts of LA County – Sanitation WMA
Shahram Kharaghani, City of Los Angeles – Stormwater WMA
Grace Chan, Metropolitan Water District – Surface Water WMA
Tom Ford, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission – Open Space WMA
Tony Zampielo, Raymond Basin – Groundwater WMA

OTHERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Tim Brick, Arroyo Seco Foundation
Russ Bryden (Staff), Los Angeles County Flood Control District
E.J. Caldwell, West Basin MWD
Jan Dougall, Las Virgenes MWD
Maria Elena Kennedy, DAC Coordinator/Kennedy Communications
Virginia Maloles-Fowler (Staff), Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Amanda Guzmán-Pérez (Staff), Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Enrique Huerta, DAC Outreach Coordinator
Kerjon Lee, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Esther Rojas, WRD
Erica Sasman (Staff), Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Dan Sulzer, USACE

Reymundo Trejo, Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
Marybeth Vergara, RMC/WCA

OTHERS PRESENT (Continued):

Guangyu Wang, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
Mary Zauner, Sanitation Districts of LA County
Fernando Paludi, West Basin MWD
Joyce Dillard (Public)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF JUNE 25, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

The Chair opened the discussion for any changes to the meeting minutes. No changes were requested.

MOTION: Motion to approve the June 25, 2014 meeting minutes was made by Randal Orton and seconded by Tom Zampielo; Sharon Green abstained from voting since she was not present at the meeting. Meeting minutes were approved by majority vote.

3. PUBLIC HEARING: 2014 UPDATED GLACR IRWM PLAN

Chair opened public hearing and invited public comments.

Public Comment: Joyce Dillard expressed her opposition to the approval of the IRWM Plan in its current form based on her concern that the \$1 billion LA River Revitalization Plan project was not included even though the project will impact water.

No other public comments were made.

MOTION: Upon completion of the Public Hearing, motion to approve the 2014 Updated IRWM Plan was made by Randal Orton and seconded by Sharon Green; motion approved by unanimous vote.

4. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE (WEST BASIN)

Water Bond Messaging: E.J. Caldwell reported on the legislative activities underway. A summary document was distributed to the group. The Water Bond will be Proposition 1 on the November 2014 ballot. He pointed out the difference between the \$7.5 billion (total water bond authorization) and the \$7.1 billion (issuance of new bonds if approved by voters plus repurposing of \$425 million from

previous approved bonds authorized by Propositions 1E, 13, 44, 50, 84, and 204). Mr. Caldwell highlighted the \$510 million allocated for the IRWM Program of which \$98 million is allocated for the Los Angeles sub-region. Mr. Caldwell recommended the promotion of the Water Bond by working on outreach efforts with other IRWM Regions. As required by law, outreach by public agencies must be purely educational, not advocacy, although public agencies may take a position on the Proposition. The KNX 10.70 News Radio air time purchase to promote education on drought issue and conservation was discussed and a suggestion to add the news stories on the drought to LA Water Plans website: www.lawaterplan.org.

AB 739 (Salas – Integrated Regional Water Management Plans: Conveyance Projects): This bill was amended on August 22, 2014, but did not pass before the end of session. The bill is expected to be reintroduced next year.

5. DROUGHT COORDINATION

5.1 Consistent Messaging

Kerjon Lee, LA County Department of Public Works Public Information Officer (PIO) described the need for consistent messaging within the GLAC Region. PIOs from sub-regions have met several times since February. Mr. Lee showed a news clip from NBC educating the public on the drought and water storage during rain which the PIO worked to supply story. A suggestion was made to add the news clip on the GLACR website: www.lawaterplan.org.

5.2 Opportunities for Increased Collaboration

Discussion on updating OPTI regularly for projects, sharing information, and messaging on what agencies do, was held. Nancy Steele of the Council for Watershed Health suggested creating a drought page on the LA Water Plan website with links to www.bewaterwise.com, and other relevant websites. She didn't think the page should be added within OPTI since it requires obtaining a User ID and Password. Dan Sulzer also provided information on the US Army Corps' water conservation and drought messaging. Randall Orton of the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District suggested ways to enhance use of OPTI to send message to the sub-regions of projects that have been added and contact information for possible collaborations with other agencies with similar benefits. Terri Grant, of LACFCD shared the FCD's Conservation Plan. Reymundo Trejo described USGVMWD's Water Smart Challenge which encourages cities in their service area to implement water saving changes and receive a \$50,000 grant for completing the Challenge requirements that define a "Water Smart City". The competition is getting a strong response. More information on the challenge can be found on the website: <http://upperdistrict.org/consERVE/water-smart-city-challenge/>. Leighanne Kirk of West Basin also shared a workshop they hosted for their retail agencies on the State Water Resources Control Board's mandatory water conservation regulations and reviewed the retailer's

ordinances, a weekly drought update newsletter and billboards on the 405 and 91 freeways with a simple message “Water, use only what you need.”

6. DAC ITEMS (RIVERS & MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY)

6.1 DAC Coordinator Positions (Mark Stanley): Marybeth Vergara provided a summary of the discussions with the five sub-regions on the Draft Statement of Qualifications for the DAC positions and selection process. Mark Stanley presented the recommendation for the DAC positions to start in January and hiring process to begin in September. Changes to the recommendation included increased sharing of reports to all Committee members, discouraging any conflict of interest by having DAC consultants release their client list and signing a conflict of interest statement, include reaching out to Gateway area, and title change to Community Liaison. Discussion on how the DAC definition for grant may be revised and how to include outreach activities in non- DAC designated areas such as NSMB was held.

6.2 Discussion on the Use of Remaining Funds in the Escrow Account: Leighanne Kirk reviewed the IRWMP Escrow Funds document included in the meeting packet and opened up the item for discussion. Randy Schoellerman inquired if there were any other outstanding expenditure that will be covered by the account. Leighanne Kirk responded that a \$5,000 annual fee to RMC for maintenance of the OPTI database could be a future expenditure. Russ Bryden also added that there is currently no plan on how the account funds will be used.

MOTION: Motion to approve the DAC Coordinator positions was made by Sharon Green and seconded by Tom Ford; motion approved by unanimous vote.

7. STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRS' & WMA REPORTS

Sub-Regional Steering Committees reported on the discussions held at their respective August meetings, as follows:

North Santa Monica Bay: Randal Orton reported that the Steering Committee discussed the DAC coordinators' roles and activities, the draft Statement of Qualifications and RMC's selection process. He also discussed how to work with DACs in a non-designated DAC area.

South Bay: Leighanne Kirk reported that the Steering Committee discussed the DAC coordinators' roles and activities, the draft Statement of Qualifications, and RMC's selection process.

Upper Los Angeles River: Nancy Steele reported that the Steering Committee discussed the DAC coordinators' roles and activities, the draft Statement of Qualifications, and RMC's selection process and said that this sub-region discussed

interest in touring IRWM or non IRWM projects within the sub-region at a future meeting.

Lower San Gabriel and Los Angeles River: The Steering Committee discussed the DAC coordinators' roles and activities, the draft Statement of Qualifications and RMC's selection process. Also, the sub-region discussed adding an inter-agency update to their future agendas.

Upper San Gabriel and Rio Hondo: The Steering Committee discussed the DAC coordinators' roles and activities, draft Statement of Qualifications, and RMC's selection process, as well as Prop 84 R1 invoicing issues.

Open Space: Tom Ford reported that there were no updates.

Sanitation District – Sharon Green reported that there were no updates.

Storm Water: Shahram Kharaghani discussed AB 2403 definition of water that helps non water agencies capture and use water in local areas. MS4 holders can also charge fees. Legal opinion has been sought and is currently underway.

Surface Water: Grace Chan had no updates, but reported that since publicizing the rebate program a stronger response (up to three times) has been realized. To date, \$16 million in rebates have been made; last year's total was \$18 million. If we receive rain, 5% for surface water amount is estimated by December 1.

Groundwater – Tony Zampiello discussed legislation 1168 and 1736 combined. Sub basin by Azusa was going dry so need to purchase water from MWD. Ad hoc committees are evaluating other areas. Issue that there are not the surface connections to draw Colorado River Water. October 2 SGW Forum with speaker on budget based rate methodologies and key speakers.

8. IRWM GRANTS UPDATE (CHAIR)

8.1 Proposition 84, 2014 IRWM Drought Solicitation: FCD staff provided an update by referring to the table posted by DWR of 39 applicants for grant funding and expecting DWR to announce in September their conditional acceptance list.

8.2 Proposition 84, R1 and R2: Staff reported that there are still issues that need to be resolved with DWR to expedite the invoicing process under Round 1. Staff reported receiving the final draft agreement for Round 2 from DWR County Counsel to review.

8.3 Proposition 50 Reallocation: Staff reported receiving agreement amendment from DWR for signatures and was returned to DWR for their signatures.

8.4 SWRB Funding Finder: Staff provided information distributed by the State Water Resources Control Board along with a copy of the 2014 California Financing Coordinating Committee Funding Fairs flyer. Members were encouraged to share the flyer with their regional members and to use the finder to seek funding programs in addition to Prop 84 funding to finance future projects.

9. CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (SUSAN KRZYWICKI)

Ms. Krzywicki provided a general overview of the work done by the California Native Plant Society. Members were invited to review the Society's website and brochures for further information.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment regarding the difficulty in obtaining access to the building to attend the meeting and the importance of posting the meeting notice 72-hours in advance, as required by the Brown Act, as well as accessibility of OPTI to the public.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/OTHER ITEMS

An update on the drought was recommended as a discussion item for the next meeting. The Chair suggested that the identification of other meeting items be based on the meeting notes.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 11:31 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 22, 2014
 9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.